includes milch cattle and buffaloes) available from Livestock Census is given below:

Year	Number of milch animals ('000)
1992	98068
1997	100962
2003	105311

(c) to (e) No, Sir.

Research activities on agricultural production

1193. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ICAR has carried out agricultural research activities in various States with a view to increase agricultural production;

(b) if so, the research activities undertaken in various parts of the country particularly in Tamil Nadu during the last three years;

(c) the recommendations of ICAR for increasing agricultural production in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) the follow-up action initiated by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The ICAR has carried out research activities to increase agricultural production in various states including Tamil Nadu through improvement of crop, animal and fish genetic resources, natural resource management, disease diagnostics and management in crops, livestock and fisheries, development and utilization of improved farm machinery, post harvest technology and human resource development. These activities are undertaken at various ICAR research institutes and their centers and the state agricultural universities as ongoing programmes and *ad-hoc* projects of national and regional priorities. For research extension, there are 537 Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVKs) in the country out of which 28 are in Tamil Nadu, one in each district. During the last three years in India, these KVKs have taken up 2258 technologies for on-farm trial to identify the location specificity of technology under various farming systems; organized 89,601 frontline demonstrations to establish their production potential on the farmer's fields; conducted Training programmes with the

participation of 21.71 lakh farmers and 2.12 extension personnel, out of which 128 on-farm trials, 4138 frontline demonstrations, training programmes for 2.05 lakh farmers and 27,367 extension personnel were organized in Tamil Nadu. Also the KVKs in Tamil Nadu produced 5106 q of seeds and 76.00 lakh planting material for making them available to the farmers.

(c) and (d) ICAR Regional Committee No. VIII comprising the States of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Union Territory of Pondicherry and Lakshdweep Islands in its Meeting at Chennai in December, 2005 with participation of Senior Officials of ICAR, SAUs and State Departments of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, made 32 recommendations for agricultural development in Tamil Nadu on which follow up action has been initiated. These relate to audit on impact of crop varieties, breeder seed production, creating farmer's awareness for use of chemicals to control insect pests, encourage cultivation of short duration intrahirsutum cotton hybrids like DHH 11 in new areas, survey and management of important diseases and weeds, shipment protocols for fruits and vegetables, examination of better alternatives to banana cultivation, mass production of disease free planting material of banana through tissue culture, popularization of snow ball tender coconut technology, arid fruit farming, watershed development, integrated nutrient managment, quality control of biofertilizers and biocontrol agents, starting of an AICRP on Agro-forestry, removal of restriction on growing of Sandal wood trees, water harvesting and utilization, prototype for coconut harvester and coconut sprayer, increasing productivity and the reproductive efficiency of cattles, fish production and quarantine mechanism for ornamental fishes, human resource development and transfer of technology.

Increase in rural landless families

1194. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of rural landless families have increased from 35 per cent between 1987 and 1988 to 55 per cent between 2003 and 2005;

(b) if so, whether any study has been done in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reasons for the increase in the number of rural landless families and Government's reaction thereto?